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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The Government are separately examining the question of exempting milk from levy of sales tax in the case of Co-operative Milk Supply Unions."

* 1612 *Q.*—Postponed to 26th March 1955.

Neyveli Lignite Project

* 1613 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any proposal to make arrangements for the members of this House to inspect the Neyveli Project Works in December 1954; and

(*b*) if so, why the proposal was given up?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The trip was postponed due to heavy rains and bad road conditions."

* 1614 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the estimated cost of the lignite project at Neyveli in South Arcot district?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Consulting Engineers engaged by the Government of India have proposed four sets of integrated schemes for the mining, utilisation and processing of lignite, estimated to cost Rs. 29·15 crores to Rs. 85·40 crores. But the Government have not yet come to any decision on the integrated schemes to be undertaken. The further investigation of the nature of the lignite seems and the ground water conditions now in progress would help to arrive at a decision."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions over."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MOTION UNDER RULE 40 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES *RE* SECURITY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST LEADERS OF BEEDI WORKERS' UNIONS IN MALABAR.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Is there any motion under rule 40 ready? "

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Sir, the Hon. the Finance Minister is ready with the answer to the motion given notice of by the hon. Member Sri C. H. Kanaran."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The matter is *sub judice*. Therefore, no statement can be made now."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Let the House at least know what that matter is."

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* SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" Sir, my motion relates to the indiscriminate security proceedings taken by the Police department, Tellicherry, North Malabar, against 11 trade union leaders including the Secretary of the Tellicherry Beedi Thozhilali Union and Secretary, Malabar Beedi Workers' Federation, in connexion with the recent dismissal of workers from a beedi factory at Kodingeri and the failure of the Government and the Labour department to intervene in the matter.

" The workers of the factory were illegally dismissed. They were prepared to have a settlement. The Deputy Collector and others tried for the settlement. But the management were not prepared for a settlement. On the other hand, they organized goondas to beat the workers. The workers had made a representation in the matter, but no action was taken against the management. But security proceedings were instituted against the workers. That means that the workers won't get their just demands conceded. The Government have not acted properly in this matter to redress the grievances of the workers."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Even an expression by the hon. Member that the Government have not acted properly in taking these security proceedings will be contempt of Court because the matter is pending in the Court. Therefore, I would request that none of these statements need be published in the Press. The matter is *sub judice* and I am unable to make any statement now."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Without going into the merits of the case, may I request the Government to consider the question of withdrawal of the proceedings? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is a different matter. That does not arise under rule 40 at all."

III.—MOTION UNDER RULE 11 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES *RE* LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SRI M. K. PADMAPRABHA GOUNDER, M.L.A.

SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Sir, under rule 11 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I beg to move—

> ' *That leave of absence be granted to Sri M. K. Padmaprabha Gounder, M.L.A., till the end of this session from the date of his absence.*' "

The motion was duly seconded.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—"அவர் வராததற்குக் காரணம் அறிய விரும்புகிறேன். அவருக்கு ஏதாவது உடம்பு அசௌகரியம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்பதைத் தெரிவிக்க வேண்டும். "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has written to me that he is not keeping good health and that it will take some time for him to recover fully. I think the House has no objection to grant of leave of absence to the hon. Member. The question is—